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FALL SEMESTER, 2005
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Political Change in Italian History

PL 399

Course description:

This course covers political change in the modern history of Italy to the present. A historical introduction will be provided. Economic, social, and cultural aspects will be treated. The history of political theories, political movements, and ideologies will be covered. Fascism and the post-Fascist era will be analyzed. Investigation will focus on transitional phenomena and elements. Particular attention will be dedicated to contemporary Italy. Major political and scholarly interpretations of the periods and topics covered will be considered. The class format will include lectures, discussion, presentations, and audiovisual materials. The students will be asked to do a small research project, utilizing information technology.

Course goals:

This course attempts to provide the student with a general understanding of Italy and its realities. Priority is given to conceptualization of different phenomena and historical development. Critical thinking and comparative analysis will be applied to achieve a clear understanding of Italian history and political change.

Required reading:

Foot J., *Modern Italy*. New York, 2003.
Klark M., *Modern Italy 1871-1995*. London, 1996.
Ginsborg P., *A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics 1943-1988*. London, 1990.
The Economist, *On Italy*. 2003-2005.
Supplementary Reading Materials to be assigned (*assigned readings*)

Recommended readings:

Hine D., *Governing Italy: The Politics of Bargained Pluralism*. Oxford, 1993.
Ginsborg P., *Italy and its Discontents. 1980-2001*. London, 2001.
Putnam R. D., *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton, 1993.

General readings:

Duggan C., *A Concise History of Italy*. London, 1994.
Zamagni V., *The Economic History of Italy: 1860-1990*. Oxford, 1993.
Barzini, L., *The Italians*. London, 1991.

Course requirements:

Two in-class Exams (midterm exam and final exam).
A Final Paper (with a Portfolio).
A Presentation.
Regular attendance and participation in class.

Exams: Midterm and final exams have the same format. The exams consist of two parts of equal value. The first part is an essay, the student will choose from one of three proposed themes, and will write a well-organized essay. The second part of the exam consists of ten terms to be concisely defined.

Program:

<u>Unit 1</u> (Sept. 5, 7)	Introduction. Methodology. Definitions.	(Foot, p. 1-53; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 2</u> (Sept. 12, 14)	Italy: Historical and Cultural Overview. The Nation and the People.	(Clark, p. 1-90; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 3</u> (Sept. 19, 21)	The Process of National Unification. The Experience of the National State.	(Clark, p. 92-177; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 4</u> (Sept. 26, 28)	The World War I era. Power and Politics in Italy. The 1920's, Crisis and Revolution.	(Clark, p. 180-229; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 5</u> (Oct. 3, 5)	The Fascist System. The State and the Regime. Economy and Society.	(Clark, p. 230-300; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 6</u> (Oct. 10, 12)	WWII. Resistance and Renewal. Italy Becomes a Democracy. Republican Italy.	(Clark, p. 302-326; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 7</u> (Oct. 17, 19)	Reconstruction. The Agrarian Reform. Christian Democracy in State and Society.	(Ginsborg, p. 121-185; assigned readings)
	*MIDTERM EXAM	
<u>Unit 8</u> (Oct. 24, 26)	The "Economic Miracle". Rural Exodus and Social Transformation. The <i>Dolce Vita</i> Era.	(Ginsborg, p. 186-253; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 9</u> (Oct. 31, Nov. 2)	National Economy and Development. Mafia and Terrorism. The Centre-Left.	(Ginsborg, p.254-297; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 10</u> (Nov. 7, 9)	Tradition and Reform. The Changing Italian Society. The Era of Collective Action.	(Ginsborg, p. 298-347; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 11</u> (Nov. 14, 16)	Advanced Capitalism and Democracy. Crisis, Compromise, and Terrorism.	(Ginsborg, p.348-425; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 12</u> (Nov. 21, 23)	The Second Republic. Federalism. The Berlusconi Era. Italy and the World.	(Foot, p. 54-110; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 13</u> (Nov. 28, 30)	Globalization and Italian Realities. Current Social and Political issues in Italian Society.	(Foot, p.111-158; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 14</u> (Dec. 5, 7)	Democracy Italian Style. Conclusions. Review.	(Foot, p. 159-206; assigned readings)
	*FINAL EXAM	

Final paper: The final paper (five to eight typed pages) will be on any topic of the student's choice related to the class program. The topic should be precisely defined and worthy of investigation. **Portfolio:** In order to produce their final papers, students will keep a portfolio of research materials during the semester. The portfolio will be shared with, and evaluated by the instructor. The production of the final paper is a work in progress during the semester. The portfolio and the paper project are progressive steps toward completion of the final paper.

Final paper format:

Cover page - title, student's name, course name, instructor's name, semester, year.

Text pages - a well organized research paper with an introduction, a body with critical analyses and evidence presented, and conclusion.

Additional materials (when appropriate) - charts, maps, photos, other materials.

Bibliography pages, listing the journal articles and electronic references.

Presentation: Students are encouraged to give a short individual or team presentation on a specific topic of their choice related to the class program. The presentation will be well-organized, concise, and include (when opportune) audiovisual and electronic materials. A separate written (three pages) presentation in substitution of the oral presentation is accepted.

Grading:

The final grade will be computed as follows: midterm exam, 30%; final exam, 30%; final paper, 30%; portfolio, presentation, and other assignments, 10%. Absences, lateness, and missed deadlines will lower the final grade by 10%. Improvement over the semester will be rewarded. Letter grades correspond to the numerical scale:

A to A- = 100% to 90%. B+ to B- = 89% to 80%. C+ to C- = 79% to 70%. D+ to D- = 69% to 60%. F = <60%.

Papers retrieval:

All papers are retrievable from the instructor's office up to the end of the following semester. Students can have their papers mailed to them by giving the instructor a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Library sessions:

The class will meet sometimes in the library to receive instruction on electronic tools and sources. Individual assistance will be provided to the students for their research. To be announced.

Guest speakers:

Guest speakers expert in the fields related to the program may be invited during the semester. To be announced.

Field trips:

Field trips may be scheduled during the semester in connection with ongoing cultural events of interest in Rome. To be announced.

Journals:

Modern Italy, Italian Politics, Italian Journal, Italica, Italy Economic Studies, Italy Today.

Recommended films:

Some class viewing may be scheduled during the semester. To be announced.

B. Bertolucci, *The Conformist*. P.V. Taviani, *Kaos*. F. Fellini, *La Dolce Vita*. F. Fellini, *Amarcord*. F. Fellini, *8 ½*. F. Fellini, *I Vitelloni*. F. Fellini, *La Strada*. P. Germi, *Divorce Italian Style*. P. P. Pasolini, *Teorema*. B. Bertolucci, *1900*. M. Monicelli, *Big Deal on Madonna Street*. R. Rossellini, *Open City*. R. Rossellini, *Voyage in Italy*. L. Visconti, *Death in Venice*. L. Visconti, *Rocco and his Brothers*. M. Ferreri, *The Great Feed*. F. Brusati, *Bread and Chocolate*. P. P. Pasolini, *Accattone!* V. De Sica, *The Bicycle Thief*. G. Tornatore, *Cinema Paradiso*. G. Salvatores, *Mediterraneo*. P.V. Taviani, *Night of the Shooting Stars*. G. Amelio, *Open Doors*. D. Risi, *Profumo di Donna*. L. Wertmüller, *Swept Away*. E. Olmi, *Tree of the Wooden Clogs*.

Data bases:

EBSCO. Historical Abstracts. Social Sciences Abstracts. JSTOR.

Internet sites:

www.italy-news.net

www.istat.it

www.ansa.it

www.governo.it

This syllabus is on line: www.gabrielesimoncini.it